

Smart's wife knew one of the murder suspects

Further arrests may be made

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Pamela Smart, the 22-year-old widow of a Derry man shot and killed in the couple's home May 1, knew at least one of the three Seabrook juveniles arrested Monday in connection with the murder.

Meanwhile, authorities said the investigation is continuing and have not ruled out the possibility of further arrests.

Mrs. Smart and at least one of the students worked together on a video as part of her job as media director at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, where the three are sophomores.

According to an issue of the student newspaper and a source who wished to remain unidentified, one of the juveniles arrested was a member of the Project Self-Esteem Committee headed by Smart.

She and the committee worked together making an orange juice commercial video to enter in a contest sponsored by Florida State University, the college Pamela Smart graduated from with a bachelor's degree in communications.

"Because she knew some kids, she asked if they'd like to work on the video and that's what they did," said the source. "They did this after school and over at the high school."



PAMELA SMART
...knew murder suspect

couple's Derry residence some time prior to the crime, according to Cecile Pierce, a member of the group and an intern in the school's media department. Smart invited committee members over to her home to work on the videotape, Pierce said. They were going to film Smart's husband on his all-terrain vehicle for the commercial, but he did not show up because of an appointment, Pierce said.

Mrs. Smart had no comment Wednesday on the recent developments when seen at the school. Although she had recently moved to Hampton, she was at her parents' Windham home Wednesday and declined to meet with reporters.

"We're trying to get over the loss and now we're trying to get over this hurt," said Linda Wojas, Pamela Smart's mother, who came outside to speak to a reporter.

"What more awful thing could happen? It's devastating to

Smart's wife knew suspect

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think it could be someone that either one of them knew."

Smart's mother said her daughter was devastated when she found out about the arrests. She said Smart could not comment because the suspects are juveniles and she would not want to jeopardize the investigation.

"They are juveniles and she can't comment," said Wojas. "On top of everything else she's lost, she doesn't need to lose her job too."

According to authorities, the three juveniles turned themselves in to Seabrook Police after they had been told by parents that Derry Police had summonses for their arrest.

Assistant Attorney General Bill Lyons confirmed Thursday, "a handgun has been recovered by the police." Another source said the juveniles did not turn in the gun and refused to comment whether any of the parents found it in their child's possession.

Two of the juveniles were arraigned at the Hampton District Court Tuesday and the remaining suspect was arraigned Wednesday. All three are being detained at the Awaiting Disposition Center in Concord.

Meanwhile, the case is being moved to Derry District Court and the attorney general's office is attempting to certify the youths as adults so they can be tried on murder charges.

The state has 21 days to file for adult certification. If the juveniles are tried as adults, one would be charged with first-degree murder, which involves premeditation. Authorities said the other two suspects would then be able to be charged with accomplice to first-degree murder.

~~Both charges have a maximum penalty of life in prison without possibility of parole, said Assistant Attorney General~~

Diane Nicolosi.

If the juveniles are tried as minors, they face detention in the state Youth Development Center until they reach 18 years of age.

Representing one of the juveniles is Marsha Kazarosian, an attorney based in Haverhill, Mass.

No one would comment on the motive for the murder or if the juveniles had admitted to anybody else being involved.

In the meantime, Smart has taken a few days off from work.

"She's devastated," her mother said. "And she's lost so much weight, I don't know if she can take this."

Smart found her husband of almost one year dead on the foyer of their Misty Morning Drive condominium May 1 after she came home from a Hampton school board meeting about 10:30 p.m. He had been shot once in the head, authorities said. Mrs. Smart said she had gone to the meeting to find out whether a media class she wanted to teach next year would be approved.